

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference see form PCT/ISA220		Date of mailing (day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA210 (second sheet)
International application No. PCT/IB2004/002309	International filing date (day/month/year) 16.07.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 16.07.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A45C13/24, G08B13/00, A44B19/00		
Applicant MICHIDA, Tatsuo		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and Industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for International preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1b/s(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:  European Patent Office D-80238 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 823858 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Lang, D Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2082
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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**International application No.
PCT/IB2004/002309**Box No. I Basis of the opinion**~~IAP20 Rec'd PCT/IBTO 13 JAN 2006~~**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 in written format
 in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/002309

Box No. II Priority

1. The following document has not been furnished:

copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(a)).
 translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(b)).

Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.

2. This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43bis.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
Industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	2,3,9,10,11,12,13,14,15
	No: Claims	1,4-8,16-18
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1,4-8,16-18
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-18
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the International application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

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International application No.

PCT/IB2004/002309

IAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 13 JAN 2006

ITEM V:**Concerning independent claim 1:**

All the features of claim 1 are known from GB-A-2284698 (see the passages cited in the search report), 11 and 10 being the first elements, 1 being the second element comprising the alert indication.

All the features of claim 1 are also known from US-A-4755802.

The subject matter of claim 1 is not new.

Concerning Independent claims 17 and 18:

All the features of claims 17 and 18 are also known from the documents cited above. The subject matter of claims 17 and 18 is not new.

Concerning the dependent claims:

The subject-matter of the claims for which documents are cited as X in the search report is not new.

Concerning claims 2 and 3, the subject-matter is not considered as involving an inventive step, the features being normal features of acoustic signals devices.

For claim 4, the mechanical action can simply be the contact in the zipper discloses in US-A-4755802.

Concerning claim 9 it is assumed that it can not be considered as involving an inventive step to produce alert indication on two elements instead of only one.

The way the two elements are connected (magnet, other fastener) can also not be considered as involving an inventive step.

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ITEM VIII:

The claims are not clear because they are directed to an alert apparatus but reference is made to other elements which are not part of this alert apparatus like:

- attached to fastener equipment,
- is connected to a slider incorporated in a wearable item,
- connected to a first slider.....